

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 36

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2006

INTRODUCED BY

Ben Lujan

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE AGING AND LONG-TERM SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO
CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO STUDY NEW MEXICO'S RESPONSE TO THE
RESOLUTIONS OF THE 2005 WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON AGING AND
DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND TO URGE CONGRESS
TO SUPPORT REAUTHORIZATION OF THE FEDERAL OLDER AMERICANS ACT
OF 1965.

WHEREAS, President George W. Bush convened the 2005 white
house conference on aging in December 2005; and

WHEREAS, the conference delegates, including seventeen
delegates from New Mexico, adopted fifty resolutions and
developed strategies to implement the resolutions to be sent to
the president and congress; and

WHEREAS, the resolutions and strategies focused on issues
of health, long-term living, lifespan planning, future

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1 workplace considerations, civic and social engagement,
2 communities, technology and innovation in an emerging senior
3 marketplace; and

4 WHEREAS, the number one resolution adopted by the
5 delegates was the reauthorization of the federal Older
6 Americans Act of 1965; and

7 WHEREAS, the population of New Mexicans over the age of
8 sixty-five is growing and will almost double by the year 2025,
9 and is projected to be fourth in the country in the percentage
10 of population over age sixty-five at more than twenty-six
11 percent; and

12 WHEREAS, current aging and long-term services programs and
13 related infrastructure and resources are inadequate to meet the
14 projected needs of a growing aging population; and

15 WHEREAS, the health, safety and welfare of seniors are
16 critical to the overall health and economic well-being of the
17 state; and

18 WHEREAS, New Mexico's rural and frontier geography,
19 multicultural populations and the sovereign status of tribal
20 entities require specific planning unique to the state; and

21 WHEREAS, the aging and long-term services department is
22 responsible for long-term care policy and programs serving
23 seniors and adults with disabilities and is the single state
24 agency responsible for carrying out the federal Older Americans
25 Act of 1965 in New Mexico;

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1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
2 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the aging and long-term services
3 department be requested to convene a task force to study New
4 Mexico's response to the resolutions of the 2005 white house
5 conference on aging and develop recommendations for
6 implementation; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force identify
8 strategies and resources necessary to prepare New Mexico for
9 the future aging disabled population; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force include
11 representation from the department of health, the human
12 services department, the department of finance and
13 administration, the department of transportation, the New
14 Mexico mortgage finance authority, the governor's commission on
15 disability, the developmental disabilities planning council,
16 the Indian affairs department, the veterans' services
17 department and others as may be appropriate; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report its
19 findings to the interim legislative health and human services
20 committee during its November 2006 meeting; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the New Mexico
22 congressional delegation be requested to support adequate
23 federal funding to meet the anticipated needs of the aging
24 population in New Mexico; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico congressional

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1 delegation be requested to support reauthorization of the
2 federal Older Americans Act of 1965; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
4 transmitted to the aging and long-term services department, the
5 department of health, the human services department, the
6 department of finance and administration, the department of
7 transportation, the New Mexico mortgage finance authority, the
8 governor's commission on disability, the developmental
9 disabilities planning council, the Indian affairs department,
10 the veterans' services department and the members of the New
11 Mexico congressional delegation.